

Government has been relatively constant through our national history except for spikes in the growth of government immediately following national crises and emergencies such as the Civil War, the Great Depression, World War II, the Kennedy assassination and social unrest of the 1960s and now potentially 9–11.

He offers what he calls the “crisis hypothesis” of the growth of Federal Government, and it is a powerful one; and he maintains that under certain conditions national emergencies call forth extensions of governmental control over or outright replacement of the market economy. In a time of economic crisis, “When critical extensions of government power are likely to occur there is little opportunity for meaningful vote on whether or not as a matter of principle the powers of the State should be extended.”

Even Herbert Hoover, attempting to stem the enormous tide of the call of growth of government during the Great Depression, said, “Every collectivist revolution rides in on a Trojan horse of emergency. It was the tactic of Lenin, Hitler and Mussolini in the collectivist sweep over a dozen minor countries in Europe. It was the cry of men striving to get on horseback.”

It has also been practiced many times throughout our history, not for a second to refer to President Truman and the likes of that litany; but it was not long after the Truman administration took office, the United States found itself in a fight with Korea and the government greatly expanded.

On December 16, 1950, as just one of many examples, Mr. Speaker, President Truman proclaimed a national emergency, calling in familiar words to this day, on all citizens to make a united effort for the security and well-being of our beloved country, to place its needs foremost in thought and action to our farmers, our workers in industry. So the President established the Office of Defense Mobilization, the Defense Protection Agency, and government grew in permanent ways.

Even in his book, in its closing chapters, Robert Higgs perhaps even wrote in 1987 about our own times saying that, “We know that other great crises will come in America, whether they will be occasioned by foreign wars, economic collapse or rampant terrorism. No one can predict with assurance that in one form or another great crises will surely come again as they have from time to time, and when they do, governments, almost certainly,” Professor Higgs wrote, “will gain new powers over economic and social affairs, unless,” he offers, and I argue, “the American people rediscover the worth of individual rights, limited government and a free society under the true rule of law.”

□ 1300

Mr. Speaker, let us recognize the times that we are in. Let us recognize that the gale force wind of big govern-

ment is upon us, and as we reorganize a Department of Homeland Security, let us not make it an excuse to simply organize big government in a permanent way.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 1 p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God of Heaven and Earth, always attentive to our prayer and understanding of our human limitations, bless and guide the Members of the 107th Congress, that they may be Your agents of reconciliation in a world torn apart by war, cynicism and fear.

Enlighten them in mind and heart, that together they shine as a harbinger of hope, bringing creativity and new vision to the people.

Through their efforts to do what is right by living according to Your commands and following the dictates of conscience, rather than expediency, grant them keen insight into complicated issues. Bring about in them decisive wisdom that will not be frayed by tangential distractions or preconceived sound bites. For Your world, O Lord, is too vast, and Your people too precious to be compromised.

So we pray now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LAMPSON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

EVENTS CONCERNING THE AFGHANISTAN LOYA JIRGA

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Chairman Karzai, the interim administration, and the Afghan people for holding the Loya Jirga to select the new transitional government in Afghanistan.

Unfortunately, due to threats by certain Afghan factions and consequent actions by a small select group of U.N., U.S. and Northern Alliance officials, the Loya Jirga process has been marred. These officials forced the King to make a statement saying he would not run for any elected position in the government.

Sadly, preventing the people from choosing their own leader substantiates the concerns of the Afghan people that the U.S. and the international community have only their own interests at heart, not just that the Afghan people have peace, freedom, democracy, and fundamental human rights.

The Afghan people were looking forward to deciding their own future on their own. Yet before the Loya Jirga was even convened, they were denied the right to choose their own leader. Unfortunately, it appears that intimidation won again.

I am concerned that the Afghan people will not forget that the U.S., U.N., and Northern Alliance prevented the King, a highly respected leader, from holding a leadership position and helping bring peace, stability, and reconciliation to their nation.

Our State Department should have had more diplomacy.

LUDWIG KOONS KIDNAPPING

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I continue my story of Ludwig Koons, the young boy who is being held illegally by the Italian Government. Two weeks ago, the Minor's Tribunal in Rome denied the request of the prosecutor to remove Ludwig's mother, the kidnapper, parental authority. Not only is this outrageous, but the court made this decision without any psychological evaluation, testimony or other discovery whatsoever. The decision was made solely on the superficial interview of Ludwig before the judges, which lasted about 15 minutes.

This decision was made despite the finding that Ludwig was kept from having any contact with his father for over 6 months. Ludwig's mother, the woman who kidnapped him and is holding him against the will of United States courts, argued that Ludwig is afraid of his father, which is an absurd, preposterous allegation.

Jeff Koons's attorneys will be filing an appellate brief before the Rome Court of Appeals contesting this decision of the Minor's Tribunal as arbitrary and unfounded, which it absolutely is, and which this entire 8-year-long ordeal has been.

Mr. Speaker, please, I urge Members to join me. Help end this tragedy. We cannot stand idly by while American children are being kidnapped and held by foreign governments, even if they are our friends. Bring our children home.

COMMENDING THE GIRL SCOUTS ON THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the 90th anniversary of the Girl Scouts, an organization that has empowered girls to reach their full potential through partnerships with caring adults.

Since 1948, the Girl Scout Council of the Congaree Area of South Carolina has served girls from age 5 through 17 in Lancaster, Lexington, Sumter, Fairfield, Newberry, Richland, Saluda and Kershaw Counties, along with the city of Great Falls. With the dedicated leadership of President Ann Addy and Executive Director Pamela Hyland, the Congaree Area Council today boasts a membership of nearly 10,000. Nationally, the organization has grown to 3.6 million Girl Scouts, part of a worldwide family of 10 million in 140 countries.

The key to the success of the Girl Scouts is very simple: they have stressed the values that every person should strive to uphold. These values include integrity, respect, inclusiveness and responsibility to the community. Through the Scouts, girls learn that to realize true satisfaction in life a person must grow in mind, body and spirit.

IMPORTANCE OF MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on yesterday I attended an event in Chicago, Illinois, that the Near North Health Corporation used to kick off Men's Health Week; and it was a very interesting event, because there were a number of high-profile men who spoke of their illnesses. But they also spoke of the fact that for many years they never went to see a doctor. They had no idea that they may have been experiencing the difficulty.

So their message was a very simple one, that if you are a man, like all other people, you really need to see your doctor. You need to check on your health. You need to make sure you get rid of the macho image that nothing can happen to you.

So I would just extend their message to all men throughout America: check on your health. This is Men's Health Week. You start with yourself.

SUPPORTING CREATION OF HOMELAND SECURITY DEPARTMENT

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, "turf," as everyone knows, is sacred in Washington, D.C., and the favorite parlor game in Washington D.C. is turf war. Every Member of Congress, every committee and agency fights hard to maintain their turf; and I am concerned that turf battles may impede what is best for our Nation.

This morning, I testified in support of H.R. 4660, a bipartisan bill to create a Secretary of Homeland Security and a Director to the National Office of Combatting Terrorism.

This legislation includes three main points. First, it gives budget authority to those in charge of protecting our Nation's homeland. Second, it provides Congress the oversight we must have over this new office. Finally, this legislation will reorganize government to allow better information-sharing both vertically and horizontally. As we proceed, Congress must be mindful that the safety of the American people is more important than the power struggles of a few agencies or Congressmen.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join in this important effort, move beyond turf battles, and do what is right for the American people.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6:30 p.m. today.

SENSE OF HOUSE ON IMPROVING MEN'S HEALTH

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 438) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that improving men's health through fitness and the reduction of obesity should be a priority.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 438

Whereas the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service has identified obesity as a major health problem;

Whereas 61 percent of adults in the United States are considered overweight or obese, as indicated by a body mass index (the most reliable measure) of 25 or greater;

Whereas 300,000 deaths each year in the United States are associated with being overweight or obese;

Whereas the economic cost of obesity in the United States was about \$177 billion in 2000;

Whereas being overweight or obese puts people at a greater risk of heart disease, certain types of cancer, type 2 diabetes, stroke, arthritis, breathing problems, and depression;

Whereas men who are overweight are 50 percent more likely to have erectile dysfunction and men who are obese are 200 percent more likely to have erectile dysfunction;

Whereas fewer than a third of American adults engage in the recommended level of physical activity, which is 30 minutes, 3 to 4 times a week; and

Whereas the number of overweight and obese children has nearly tripled in the past two decades: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes that being overweight or obese is a major health concern in the United States;

(2) commends and supports the work of all organizations that are taking steps to combat this health problem;

(3) urges all governmental, State, and private organizations to do everything in their power to promote a healthy lifestyle; and

(4) pledges to take proactive steps to intensify its efforts to combat this health problem.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on House Resolution 438.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of House Resolution 438 to express the sense of Congress that improving men's health through fitness and reduction of obesity should be a priority. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) is absolutely correct. Obesity is a major health problem for our society. We must help inform the American public about these risks so that they can take corrective actions to make changes in their food consumption and exercise behaviors.

Over 61 percent of U.S. adults are overweight, along with 13 percent of children. Approximately 300,000 American deaths a year are associated with obesity. What is frightening is that this trend is exponentially increasing. Since 1980, obesity among adults has doubled, and overweight children and adolescents have tripled. Americans need to know that being overweight places people at a higher risk for heart disease, cancer and stroke, all top killers in America, in addition to arthritis, breathing problems, and depression. New research has revealed that obesity can lead to Type 2 diabetes in children